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WO 01/56646 A1

(54) Title: MEDICAL DEVICE

(57) Abstract: There is provided a medical device adapted for insertion into a human or animal body, characterised in that its exterior surface is coated with i) an inner first layer of a biocompatible carrier providing sustained release of a biologically active agent dissolved or dispersed therein; ii) an outer second layer consisting of a film of said biologically active agent applied on said inner first layer, where said film optionally may contain at least one non-polymeric adjuvant, diluent or carrier. The present medical device is especially well suited for treatment or prevention of restenosis and disorders related thereto.

MEDICAL DEVICEField of the Invention

The present invention relates to a medical device adapted for insertion into a human or animal body as well as a method for use thereof in promoting tissue healing and in treatment of restenosis and disorders related thereto.

Background of the Invention

During the last years, local drug administration has become an increasingly more attractive means of treatment of various disorders. As is well known, local drug administration mainly offers both a reduced risk of unwanted systemic side-effects and much less general inconvenience for all parties involved. Hence, a vast number of various medical devices and methods providing direct application of drug(s) to a diseased site have been disclosed. Typical such medical devices and methods are disclosed in US 5 861 168, WO 96/35416 and WO 99/08729, the teachings of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Stenotic lesions of vasculature are common disorders which often lead to arterial occlusive disease. Indeed, the latter is the most frequently encountered problem of vascular disease, and particularly of cardiovascular disease. In general, approximately 50% of the patients with significant cardiovascular disease will be treated with percutaneous coronary angioplasty, whereby a balloon angioplasty is usually performed. However, the high incidence of restenosis, reaching 30-50% in several studies, following such balloon angioplasty continues to restrict the long-term success of this procedure (Kastrati, A., Schomig, A., Elezi, S., Schulen, H., Wilhelm, M., Dirschinger, J., *Circ.*, 97, 2396 (1998)).

In order to treat the aforementioned resulting restenosis, stent implantation has lead to some success.

Various medical devices having a coating which provides local rapid release of nitric oxide (NO) have provided a potentially more successful alternative. Typical such medical devices are disclosed in WO 96/35416 referred to above. This reference suggests many types of medical devices providing release of NO, such as i) a medical device partially or completely coated with a nitric oxide adduct either as the coating per se or in a coating matrix, ii) a medical device partially or completely produced from a material which includes an NO adduct, and iii) a medical device derivatised with an NO adduct. As for coated stents, WO 96/35416 explicitly discloses only a Palmaz-Schatz stent coated with a layer of a bovine serum albumine (BSA) conjugate of S-nitrosothiol (Example 5). All the other examples relate to coated catheters. Related teachings are disclosed in WO 99/08729, where a balloon catheter coated with a layer of molsidomine is utilised. The characterising features of the medical device according to the present invention are neither disclosed nor suggested in any one of these references.

Here it should be mentioned that molsidomine is a recently introduced nitric oxide donor which belongs to the substance group of sydnonimines. This type of compounds are known for their ability to release NO without need of enzymatic catalysis (Lablanche, J-M. et al., *Circ.*, 95(1), 83 (1997)). Diethylenetriamine/nitric oxide adduct (DETA/NO) is a similar NO releasing compound. (Maragos C.M. et al. *J. Med Chem.* 34:3242-3247. (1991))

As for the aforementioned types of coated medical devices, two main problems are associated therewith. Firstly, the type of coating used is not potent enough to promote tissue healing, particularly vascular healing, to such an extent that beneficial long-term effects are attained. Accordingly, the hitherto known coatings are not potent enough to treat restenosis in such a manner that it ceases to be detrimental to the patient on a more

long-term basis. Secondly, said type of coating elicits virtually no prophylactic effect. There is of course a strong demand in the art to provide a medical device which does not suffer from these disadvantages.

5 Disclosure of the Invention

According to the present invention, there is provided a novel medical device which *inter alia* overcomes the problems referred to above. Indeed, the features of the present medical device provide a solution of these  
10 problems also for many other types of disorders (*vide infra*) in addition to vascular damage(s) and restenosis. More specifically, the present invention relates to a medical device adapted for insertion into a human or animal body, characterised in that its exterior surface  
15 is coated with

- i) an inner first layer of a biocompatible carrier providing sustained release of a biologically active agent dissolved or dispersed therein;
- ii) an outer second layer consisting of a film of  
20 said biologically active agent applied on said inner first layer, where said film optionally may contain at least one non-polymeric adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

The expression "biologically active agent", as used  
25 herein, comprises any substance(s) which may yield a physiological response when administered to a living organism. Thus, said biologically active agent may also be an active metabolite, drug progenitor or a drug-conjugate, such as a drug-protein (e.g. drug-BSA) conjugate  
30 or a drug-spacer conjugate, where the protein or spacer is selected in such a manner that it will readily adhere to said inner first layer, i.e. to said biocompatible carrier. The conjugates may be formed by either covalent binding or other sufficiently strong intermolecular binding  
35 resulting from e.g. hydrophobic, hydrogen-binding or hydrophilic interactions.

It should be understood that said biologically active agent may also be a mixture of one or more physiologically active substances, which are used in a particular combination. In this case, the combination is present in both said first and second layer, albeit not necessarily in the same concentration and/or ratio.

The expression "sustained release", as used herein, means that said biocompatible carrier releases no more than 50-90 percent by weight (wt%) of said biologically active agent dissolved or dispersed therein within 7 days after insertion of said medical device into a human or animal body.

Typically, said biocompatible carrier is a polymer. It is preferably selected from polyamine-dextran-sulphate, poly fatty acid esters, polyurethane and other pharmaceutically acceptable polymeric carriers known in the art. Thus, the following polymers can provide a suitable biocompatible carrier according to the present invention: poly fatty acid esters [e.g. homopolymer (e.g. polylactic acid) of fatty acid or copolymer (e.g. copolymer of lactic acid/glycolic acid, copolymer of 2-hydroxy butyric acid/glycolic acid) of two or more fatty acids, a mixture of the homopolymer and/or copolymer (e.g. a mixture of polylactic acid and copolymer of 2-hydroxybutyric acid/glycolic acid), examples of the fatty acid include  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid (e.g. glycolic acid, lactic acid, 2-hydroxy butyric acid, 2-hydroxyvaleric acid, 2-hydroxy-3-methyl butyric acid, 2-hydroxycaproic acid, 2-hydroxyisocaproic acid, 2-hydroxycaprylic acid), cyclic dimers of  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acids (e.g. glycolide, lactide), hydroxydicarboxylic acid (e.g. malic acid), hydroxytricarboxylic acid (e.g. citric acid)], poly- $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate, polyalkylene oxalates (e.g. polytrimethylene oxalate, polytetramethylene oxalate), poly ortho esters, poly ortho carbonates and other polycarbonates (e.g. polyethylene carbonate, poly-ethylenepropylene carbonate), polyamino acids (e.g. poly- $\gamma$ -benzyl-L-

glutamic acid, poly-L-alanine, poly- $\gamma$ -methyl-L-glutamic acid), polylysine, and the like. Further examples of a suitable biocompatible carrier include polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, copolymer of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, silicon polymer, dextran stearate, ethylcellulose, acetylcellulose, maleic anhydride copolymers, ethylene-vinylacetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylamide and the like. These polymers may be used alone or in combination. They may be used in the form of a copolymer or mere mixture of these two or more polymers. They may be in the form of salts thereof. The affinity for the adsorbed molecular coating e.g. film can be enhanced by attachment of phenylboronic acid moieties. For the purposes of the present invention, D-, L- and D,L-isomers are equally suitable.

Preferably, said non-polymeric adjuvant, diluent or carrier is selected from phosphorylcholine and derivatised phosphorylcholine, albumines, liposomes, and contrast medium; preferably iohexole.

As a non-limiting example of suitable derivatised phosphorylcholines, mention can be made of the compounds disclosed in WO 91/13639 and WO 93/22320, the entire teachings of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Moreover, it is preferred that said polyamine-dextran-sulphate, poly fatty acid ester and polyurethane have an average molecular weight in the range of from 5 kDa to 100 kDa.

A preferred polyamine-dextran-sulphate is that provided by Corline Systems AB (Sweden) and used as coating in the stent Joflex Heparin<sup>®</sup> (commercially available from Jomed International AB, SE). This carrier material is known to be easily modifiable so that the desired rate of sustained release of a biologically active agent dissolved or dispersed therein is attained. Indeed, use of polyamine-dextran-sulphate as carrier provides a particu-

larly efficient embodiment for slow intramural delivery of numerous different biologically active agents.

Preferably, said poly fatty acid ester is polylactic acid (PLA), polyglycolic acid (PGA) or a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid (PLGA). PLGA is particularly preferred, as it is also commercially available in many varieties (*inter alia* provided by Boehringer Ingelheim, DE). Other preferred polymers are poly- $\alpha$ -cyanoacrylate and a copolymer of 2-hydroxybutyric acid and glycolic acid.

When PLGA is used, its monomer ratio is preferably about 100/0 to 50/50 (w/w). When a copolymer of 2-hydroxybutyric acid and glycolic acid is used, its monomer ratio is preferably about 100/0 to 25/75 (w/w).

The average molecular weight of PLGA and the copolymer of 2-hydroxybutyric acid and glycolic acid is preferably about 5 to 30 kDa. When a mixture of a polylactic acid (A) and a copolymer of 2-hydroxybutyric acid/glycolic acid (B) is used, the mixture can be used in a blend (w/w) ratio of about 10/90 to 90/10, preferably about 25/75 to 75/25.

The weight-average molecular weight of the polyactic acid (A) is preferably about 5 to 30 kDa.

The preferred proportion of glycolic acid in the copolymer (B) is about 40-70 mol%. The average molecular weight of the copolymer (B) is preferably about 5 to 25 kDa.

If desired, said biocompatible carrier may additionally contain other substances which are generally used in the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions. Typical such substances are pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, adhesives, stabilisers (often antioxidants), lubricants and pH regulators. All of these substances are well known in the art.

Said biologically active agent is preferably present in said inner first layer at a concentration of from 0.01

to 99 wt%. Preferably, said inner first layer has a thickness in the range of from 0,5 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

In the present medical device, said biologically active agent is preferably an antiinflammatory drug, e.g. 5 prostaglandines, indomethacin, or diclofenac. It is further preferred that said compound is a diethylene-triamine/nitric oxide adduct (DETA/NO) or a sydnonimine, preferably molsidomine or linsidomine.

One or more agents, i.e. adjuvants, which enhance 10 the amount of NO delivered to the cells at the site to be treated can also be present. Such agents typically enhance the absorption of NO or its precursor, increase the activity of the NO-releasing compound and/or protect the NO-releasing compound from degradation. Particularly 15 useful such agents are the vitamins B<sub>6</sub>, B<sub>12</sub>, C and E. Also useful in the practising of the present invention are folates,  $\beta$ -carotene, glutathione, coenzyme Q, cysteine, tocopherols, phenolic compounds, thiols, ubiquinones, heparinoids, Ca<sup>2+</sup>-antagonists, nitrates, protein kinase 20 inhibitors, anti-thrombin and antiproliferative agents, such as metotrexate, mitomycin C, doxyrubicin, cyto-statics, somatostatin analogs, cytochalasin B and dexamethasone.

In the present medical device, said exterior surface 25 preferably consists of metal or a biocompatible organic or inorganic polymer. Said metal is preferably selected from gold, silver, platinum, stainless steel, titanium and biocompatible alloys thereof. Said biocompatible organic or inorganic polymer is preferably selected from 30 fibrin, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), silicone, silicone rubber, nylon and polyethylene perthalate (Dacron).

Moreover, it is preferred that said medical device is selected from catheters, guide wires, balloons, filters, vascular grafts, implants, sutures, surgical staples 35 and stents.

In the most preferred embodiment of the present invention, said medical device is a stent. Particularly



preferred are Jostent<sup>®</sup> Flex and Jomed stentgrafts adapted for coronary use.

In addition, the present invention relates to a method for use of said medical device as set forth above.

5 More specifically, the present invention further relates to a method for promoting tissue healing in a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises insertion of a medical device as set forth above into a site where tissue healing is required. Even more specifically, the

10 present invention also relates to a method for treatment or prevention of restenosis and disorders related thereto in a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises insertion of a medical device as set forth above into a site where treatment or prevention of restenosis and dis-

15 orders related thereto is required.

Said site is typically an artery, preferably a coronary artery, or a part of the gastrointestinal tract.

The above method is also applicable to the treatment or prevention of other disorders, such as inflammatory

20 conditions or proliferative disorders, e.g. cancer diseases. A person skilled in the art will readily realise how to adapt, if necessary, the practising of the present method to the particular disorder and circumstances at hand.

25 As for the typical dosage of the biologically active agent, it varies within a wide range and depends on various factors, such as the particular requirements of each receiving individual and the particular medical device used. The required dosage range depends on the used agent

30 and circumstance under which it is applied. The dosage is generally within the range of 0.001-100 mg/kg body weight, albeit also other ranges may be required under certain circumstances.

The present invention is further illustrated by the

35 following non-limiting general examples.

Examples

Coating of a stent having a smooth stainless steel surface:

A Jostent® Flex stent (manufactured by Jomed International AB, SE) made in electropolished Stainless steel 316L is coated by dipping it at room temperature into a paste of polyamine-dextrane-sulphate incorporated with heparine as the carrier of 3-morpholino-sydnimine present in a concentration of  $10^{-4}$  M. Concentrations as low as  $10^{-8}$  M are likely also effective (in the literature a concentration of 1 nM has been reported to have an effect in vitro). The polyamine-dextrane-sulphate (PDS) is then allowed to harden by conventional means, e.g. by evaporation of a fluidizing solvent, such as ethanol, at room temperature, whereby a first layer is formed. This layer is sufficiently elastic to retain its structural integrity when the stent is subsequently expanded after insertion thereof into e.g. an artery. The outer second layer is then applied by dipping at 37°C the PDS-coated stent into a paste of polymerized phosphorylcholine containing 3-morpholino-sydnimine (in the range from about  $10^{-8}$  M to  $10^{-2}$ , preferably about  $10^{-4}$  M) and a fluidising solvent, such as a water/ethanol mixture. After removal of the fluidising solvent by air drying at room temperature as above, a stent having two separate drug-containing layers is provided. Alternatively, the stent is dipped several times in molsidonimine in a high concentration for approximately half an hour in a way that a film is created with or without the use of a carrier.

In said pastes, a concentration of 3-morpholino-sydnimine of from  $10^{-8}$  to  $10^{-2}$  M is usually suitable. As an alternative, the outer second layer may be applied by first coating the inner first layer with polymerized phosphorylcholine only, followed by drying the product and then dipping it into a solution of e.g. molsidonimine in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and/or ethanol. In this manner, molsidonimine is

incorporated onto the layer of phosphorylcholine. A similar procedure is disclosed in WO 99/08729 (p.11), albeit a polyacrylic acid-based coating is used therein.

The above procedure is readily applied on, or if  
5 necessary easily adapted to, virtually all of the commercially available stents. Typical such stents are Biodivysion™ (Biocompatibles Ltd., UK), BX high velocity Stainless Steel L316™ (Cordis, Johnson & Johnson Co., USA), NIR Primo Stainless Steel 316L™, NIRoyal Stainless  
10 Steel 316L™ (coated with a 7 µm layer of gold-plating), Radius self-expanding Nitinol™ stent (Medinol, Scimed, Boston Scientific Co., USA), S670™ and S540™ (AVE, Metronic, USA), Multilink Duett™ and Ultra™ (ACS, Guidant S.A., Belgium).

15 As further non-limiting examples of stents as well as guidewires and angioplasty balloons which are suitable in the practising of the present invention, mention can be made of those disclosed in "Interventional Vascular Product Guide". Ed.: Leon M.B., Mintz G.S., Publ. Martin  
20 Dunitz, 1999.

It deserves to be mentioned that stents as well as guidewires coated with phosphorylcholine are commercially available. A typical such stent is Biodivysion™ Phosphorylcholine (Biocompatibles Ltd., UK). Hence, coating  
25 of a medical device with phosphorylcholine having a biologically active agent dissolved or dispersed therein is readily accomplished by a person skilled in the art. A nonreleasing heparan-sulphate biocompatible coated stent is also commercially available. A typical such stent is  
30 the heparin coated Jostent® Flex stent (Jomed Int. AB Sweden).

In short, the general potency of the present medical device is based primarily on the following principles. Firstly, upon insertion of the medical device into a  
35 body, a rapid release of the biologically active agent is provided. More specifically, the outer second layer will normally release at least 50% of its biologically active

component within 1-24 h after insertion, thereby  
alleviating acute disorders. Secondly, the inner first  
layer will thereafter provide a sustained release (*vide*  
*supra*) of its biologically active component, thereby pro-  
5 viding a long-term therapeutic effect as well as a pro-  
phylactic effect. This combined "pulsed" effect of the  
two layers provides a versatile treatment regimen.

Although the examples above disclose the preparation  
of coated stents only, it should be realised that these  
10 procedures are also readily adaptable for use on virtu-  
ally any medical device, albeit particularly those speci-  
fied *supra*. Hence, the features of the present medical  
device and method for use thereof are applicable within  
the field of medicine in general.

## CLAIMS

1. Medical device adapted for insertion into a human or animal body, characterised in that its exterior surface is coated with

- i) an inner first layer of a biocompatible carrier providing sustained release of a biologically active agent dissolved or dispersed therein;
- ii) an outer second layer consisting of a film of said biologically active agent applied on said inner first layer, where said film optionally may contain at least one non-polymeric adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

2. Medical device according to claim 1, wherein said biocompatible carrier is a polymer.

3. Medical device according to claim 2, wherein said polymer is selected from polyamine-dextran-sulphate, poly fatty acid esters and polyurethane.

4. Medical device according to claim 3, wherein said polyamine-dextran-sulphate, poly fatty acid ester or polyurethane has an average molecular weight in the range of from 5 kDa to 100 kDa.

5. Medical device according to claim 4, wherein said poly fatty acid ester is polylactic acid (PLA), polyglycolic acid (PGA) or a copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid (PLGA).

6. Medical device according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein said non-polymeric adjuvant, diluent or carrier is selected from phosphorylcholine and derivatised phosphorylcholine, albumines, liposomes, and contrast medium; preferably iohexole.

7. Medical device according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein said biologically active agent is present in said inner first layer at a concentration of from 0.01 to 99 percent by weight and outer film layer.

8. Medical device according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein said inner first layer has a thickness in the range of from 0,5 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5 9. Medical device according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein said biologically active agent is a compound capable of providing release of nitric oxide.

10 10. Medical device according to claim 9, wherein said compound is a diethylenetriamine/nitric oxide adduct or sydnonimine, preferably molsidomine or linsidomine.

11. Medical device according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein said exterior surface consists of metal or a biocompatible organic or inorganic polymer.

12. Medical device according to claim 11, wherein said metal is selected from gold, silver, platinum, stainless steel, titanium and biocompatible alloys thereof.

13. Medical device according to claim 11, wherein said biocompatible organic or inorganic polymer is selected from fibrin, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), silicone, silicone rubber, nylon and polyethylene perththalate (Dacron).

14. Medical device according to any one of claims 1-13, wherein said medical device is selected from catheters, guide wires, balloons, filters, vascular grafts, implants, suturs, surgical staples, heart valves, and stents.

15. Medical device according to claim 14, wherein said medical device is a stent.

16. Method for promoting tissue healing in a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises insertion of a medical device according to any one of claims 1-15 into a site where tissue healing is required.

17. Method for treatment or prevention of restenosis and disorders related thereto in a human or animal body, wherein said method comprises insertion of a medical device according to any one of claims 1-15 into a site

where treatment or prevention of restenosis and disorders related thereto is required.

18. Method according to any one of claims 16-17, wherein said site is an artery, preferably a coronary  
5 artery, or a part of the gastrointestinal tract.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 01/00126

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61M 31/00, A61K 9/00, A61L 27/40

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61K, A61L, A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0879595 A2 (SCHNEIDER (USA) INC.), 25 November 1998 (25.11.98), see abstract, page 3-5, and the claims  --	1-8,11-15
X	US 5591227 A (THOMAS Q. DINH ET AL), 7 January 1997 (07.01.97), see column 2, line 36 - column 3, line 38, column 5, lines 44-45, column 6, lines 26-32, column 7, lines 21-26, column 8, lines 26-63, and the claims  -- -----	1-18

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Date of mailing of the international search report

07-06-2001

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Swedish Patent Office

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
**PCT/SE01/00126**

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: **16-18**  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
**see next sheet \***
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: **1-18**  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
**see next sheet \*\***
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims: it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

\*

Claims 16-18 relate to methods of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or by therapy/ diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body/Rule 39.1.(iv). Nevertheless, a search has been executed for these claims. The search has been based on the alleged effects of the compounds/compositions.

\*\*

Present claims 1-18 relate to an extremely large number of possible products, due to the wording "medical device" of claim no. 1. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a limited proportion of the products claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible.

Consequently, the search has mainly been carried out for those parts of the claims that appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts related to the types of medical devices disclosed in claim no. 14.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

30/04/01

International application No.  
PCT/SE 01/00126

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP	0879595	A2	25/11/98	CA	2236182 A	30/10/98
				JP	10305105 A	17/11/98
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US	5591227	A	07/01/97	EP	0701802 A	20/03/96
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				US	5599352 A	04/02/97
				US	5697967 A	16/12/97
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